

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 12, 23 and 34-36 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 12 and 23 were amended; and claims 2-4, 13-15 and 24-26 were canceled. New dependent claims 34-36 were added. Support for the claim amendments can be found, for example, on page 9 of the specification. Applicants believe the claims currently in the case patentably distinguish over the cited art and are allowable in their present form. Reconsideration is, accordingly, respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following comments.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 102, Anticipation

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 12-14 and 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Moore, U.S. Patent Number 7,084,737 (hereinafter “Moore”).

Claim 1 as amended herein is as follows:

1. A method for providing products, the method comprising:
receiving, at a first automatic product/service dispensing machine at a location in a micronetwork of proximally located diverse automatic product/service dispensing machines, a request for an item by a user;
receiving at the first automatic product/service dispensing machine, a payment device of the user, wherein the payment device includes identity information;
responsive to a determination that the item is unavailable at the first automatic product/service dispensing machine, providing the user with redirection information regarding a location of at least one alternative automatic product/service dispensing machine in the micronetwork at which the item may be obtained;
requesting the user to select a second automatic product/service dispensing machine among the at least one alternative automatic product/service dispensing machine;
responsive to the user selecting the second automatic product/service dispensing machine, providing the identity information to the second automatic product/service dispensing machine; and
responsive to receiving the payment device of the user at the second automatic product/service dispensing machine, the second automatic product/service dispensing machine dispensing the item and deducting an amount from the price of the item, wherein the user is charged a reduced price for the item at the second automatic product/service dispensing machine.

Moore does not disclose or in any way suggest the claimed steps of “receiving at the first automatic product/service dispensing machine, a payment device of the user, wherein the payment device includes identity information”, “responsive to the user selecting the second automatic product/service dispensing machine, providing the identity information to the second automatic product/service dispensing machine”, or “responsive to receiving the payment device of the user at the second automatic product/service dispensing machine, the second automatic product/service dispensing machine dispensing

the item and deducting an amount from the price of the item, wherein the user is charged a reduced price for the item at the second automatic product/service dispensing machine.” Claim 1, accordingly, is not anticipated by Moore and patentably distinguishes over Moore in its present form

Independent claims 12 and 23 have been amended in a similar manner as claim 1, and are also not anticipated by Moore. New claims 34-36 depend from and further restrict claims 1, 12 and 23, respectively, and are also allowable over Moore, at least by virtue of their dependency. Claims 2, 3, 13, 14, 24 and 25 have been canceled.

Therefore, the rejection of claims 1-3, 12-14 and 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) has been overcome.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 103, Obviousness

The Examiner has rejected claims 4, 15 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moore in view of Walker, US Patent No, 6,324,520, and Walker, U.S. Publication No. 2005/0060062.

Claims 4, 15 and 26 have been canceled. Accordingly, this rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is now moot.

III. Conclusion

Claims 1, 12, 23 and 34-36 patentably distinguish over the cited art in their present form, and this application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. It is, accordingly, respectfully requested that the Examiner so find and issue a Notice of Allowance in due course.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,

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